THE
Theatrical Observer;
AND
Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."—*Othello.*

No. 5978. *Thursday, Feb.* 18, 1841. *Price* 1*d.*

"The Play's the thing."—Ask for *Thomas's Observer.*

COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.

LAST evening, Shakspere's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, and the laughable Pantomime of *The Castle of Otranto*, drew a numerous audience to this Theatre.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

AT this Theatre, last night, the performances were *Money, Katherine and Petruchio*, and *The Adopted Child.*

Mr. Balfe.—As this gentleman is on the eve of opening the English Opera House, for the performance of *bona fide* English Operas, with a company consisting of the best available native talent of the present day, a brief memoir of so eminent a member of the musical profession may prove acceptable to our readers. Mr. Balfe's first operatic composition, *The Siege of Rochelle*, was performed at Drury Lane Theatre on the 29th of October, 1835, and had a run of 56 successive nights. During its first three seasons, it was performed 150 nights, and was commanded by Queen Adelaide, as well as by her present Majesty. This highly successful Opera was followed by *The Maid of Artois, Catherine Grey, Joan of Arc, Diadeste*, and *Falstaff*, the latter being the only instance of a British composer producing an Opera to Italian words. He has also recently produced in Paris a *French* Opera, which met with great success. He is the author of some very sensible works on music, and has besides earned a high reputation as a vocalist, having made his first appearance on the English stage on the 8th of October, 1836, as *Michel*, in his first Opera, His powers, as a Concert singer, had been previously displayed, and properly appreciated. He has a decided *gout* for acting, and plays with more spirit and ease than any of our singer-actors of the present day; his voice is a mellow baritone, possessing great richness, and that finished full tone, which, more than a powerful organ, wins upon the ear. The facility with which he reads a score renders him one of the best conductors of the day. Mr. Balfe is of the sister isle, and his age about 31, he having appeared at the Oratorios fifteen years ago, as a youth, playing Concertos on the violin with the greatest éclat, when under the tuition of Mr. Rooke, the composer of *Amilie.* Among his boyish compositions, at that period, may be mentioned "The Lover's Mistake," which was sung by Madame Vestris in *Paul Pry*, wrongly attributed to Horn. He afterwards proceeded to Italy, studying under the best masters, where his talents may be said to have ripened into maturity. He possesses all the remarkable qualities of an Irish gentleman of liberal education, and moves in the highest circles, where his society

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is much courted. He is married to an Italian lady of great accomplishments, who is to be the *prima donna* on the opening of the English Opera, in the success of which all true lovers of British music must feel deeply interested.

On the occasion of the 200th representation of Weber's *Freyschutz*, at Berlin, the King of Prussia has sent a sum of one hundred gold Fredericks to the widow of that celebrated composer.

The Musical Antiquarian Society is progressieg most satisfactorily; the number of subscribers amounts to nearly four hundred. The object of the society is, the publication of ancient and rare compositions, which have been for ages mouldering on the shelves of the curious collectors of the works of the earliest writers for voices.

Fashionable Lounges.

To the Editor of The Theatrical Observer.

DEAR MR. EDITOR, I address you from *Goode's European Cigar Divan & Chess Room*, 39, Ludgate Hill, having just popt in to take a cup of Coffee, whiff a true Havannah, kill an hour over one or two of the Morning and Evening Papers—skim the Magazines—play a game of Chess, and one of Billiards—delightful and elegant place——Just wish to mention, that I've arranged so as to rub shoulders with my friends, and the fashionable world at one or other of the *Grand Lounges* about town.

Monday, stroll to Madame TUSSAUD's elegant Exhibition, Golden Corinthian Saloon, Baker Street, Portman Square.—Just added to her unrivalled collection full length figures of the Archbishop of York, the Lord Bishop of London, the Marquis of Londonderry, Lord Palmerston, Mehemet Ali, in costume, and Paganini,—also splendid figures of Her Majesty, the Queen, Prince Albert in his military costume, and the group of John Knox reproving Mary Queen of Scots.

On Tuesday, pay a visit to the Somerset Gallery, 151, Strand, next door to Somerset House, to see a most wonderful exhibition, *The Industrious Fleas*. They dance, ride, drive a four-in-hand, fight, and in fact do everything in first rate style, exciting the admiration of all present. By the bye, this is Signor Bertolotto's exhibition, that he has been exhibiting for the last eight years.

Afterwards called at Emmett's, 27, Holborn Hill, to view his Novel Pen Maker, by which any one can make a superior Pen in less than one minute—also his improved Needle Threader, to enable Ladies, whose sight is impaired to thread their needles with the greatest ease—a most ingenious contrivance.

On Wednesday go to the Cosmorama Rooms, 209, Regent Street, to view the new and beautiful views now exhibting here; they are of the most interesting description, and deserve the patronage they receive.

In my way from the Theatre, drop into the *Harmonic Meeting*, held at EVANS's Grand Hotel, King Street, Covent Garden,—quite delighted with the excellence of the singing, commences every evening at ten o'clock. When Mrs. P. is out of town, stay a week, and only pay a guinea for bed and breakfast. I'm always to be found on Saturday, at half-past five, at the Convivial Dinner held here.

Your musical readers are perhaps not aware that Mr. Cocks, of Princess Street, Hanover Square, the spirited Music publisher to Her Majesty, has been chosen by Messrs. Lanner, Strauss, Labitzky, Musard, Dufrene, Czerny, and Duarte Idos Santos, sole publisher of all their new works, and that no other house in Great Britain can possibly print any of their new compositions. A catalogue of the same may be had gratis.

"Why is one of Perring's Beavers like the Queen's first head dress?"—"Because it is *a Crown* that sits lightly on the head of the wearer—one that will last through tumult and tempest, and though it may *reign* for ever, can never be injured.—Try Perring's Hats not to be equalled for cheapness, lightness, and durability, at 21s. each.—85, Strand.

"All good *spirits* come to my *Beck*," at his Dr. Johnson's Tavern, Bolt Court, Fleet Street—where you meet excellent company—capital fare at *fair* prices—delightful singing—(commences every evening at a quarter to nine,) cigar, billiards, good beds, and an enticing bill of fare.

On Saturday, I examine *Miss Linwood's* curious Needle Work, Leicester Square—just added other beautiful specimens of her art.—But I intrude—beg pardon—Your's, &c.—PAUL PRY.

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening, *(4th Time)* a New Comedy, in Two Acts, called The

White Milliner.

The Scenery by the Messrs: GRIEVE.
The Dresses, by Miss GLOVER & Madame THOMAS.

Lord Ortolan ..... Mr CHARLES MATHEWS,
Justice Twilight, Mr W. FARREN,
Herbert Conway ..... Mr JAMES VINING,
Saul Sneezum, Mr KEELEY,
Doddles....(the Beadle)....Mr F. MATTHEWS,
Lazarus Muff, Mr W. H. PAYNE,
Officers .... Messrs. IRELAND and GARDINER,
Lady Ortolan, Miss COOPER,
Albina .....Madame VESTRIS,
Mrs Mellowpear, Mrs ORGER,
Betty Furbelow.....Mrs HUMBY.

After which, (13th Time) a New Farce, called

Brother Ben.

Commodore Cutlass, Mr BARTLEY,
Benjamin Bowles ..... Mr C. MATHEWS
Mr Snuffleton, Mr HARLEY,
Mrs Cutlass .... Mrs BROUGHAM,
Mrs B. Bowles, Miss LEE, Dorothy MrsC.JONES

To conclude with, (47th Time) the Comic Christmas Pantomime, called The

Castle of Otranto

THE REGIONS OF ROMANCE.
Spirit of Romance, Miss LEE,

The CASTLE of OTRANTO

Spirit of Burlesque...Mr S. SMITH,

Grand Attack on the Castle—Sally of the Besieged—Terrific Combat.

Interior of CASTLE YARD, with the GIANT HELMET.

Manfred..(Usurping Prince of Otranto)..Mr W.H.PAYNE,
PrincessHippolyta.....(his very ill-used Wife)..MrT.RIDGWAY
The Lady Isabella..Miss FAIRBROTHER,
Theodore.....(a Peasant).....Mr C. J. SMITH,

The Prophecy.—Vault in the Castle.
The Escape.—Grand Staircase and Gallery, leading to the Great Chamber.
The Ghost—The Castle Gate. *The Gigantic Sabre.*

The Marquis of Vicenza.....Mr MORRELLI,
Another View of the Castle Yard and the **GIANT HELMET**
The Denouement. An Unexpected Change in Affairs.
Harlequin..MrC.J.SMITH, Columbine..Miss FAIRBROTHER,
Pantaloon..Mr MORRELLI, Clown..MrT. RIDGWAY,
Strawberry Hill. *Trafalgar Square, and the National Gallery.*
Opening of the Nelson Monument.
Miniature Model of a Man-of-War's Man, (with a Hornpipe) Miss A. PAYNE.
National Flag Dance, composed by Mr. OSCAR BYRNE.

Furnished Lodgings. ***The Temple of the Drama.***
Interior of the Temple. China Warehouse & Grocer's Shop, with Post Office.
Chinese Pas de Trois, Master Payne, Miss Payne, Miss A. Payne.

The subject being started, the **Messrs. Grieve** will have the honor to lay before the Public their Views of the most interesting Disputable Points of

The Eastern Question.

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening, a Musical Entertainment, entitled The

Concerts d'Hiver.

170 PERFORMERS.

Grand Chorus of Eighty Performers
35 FEMALE VOICES, 45 MALE VOICES,

Conductor, Mons. JULLIEN.

PROGRAMME.

PART I.

Overture .... Zampa .... Herold
Valses .. Aurora .. .. Labitzky
Quadrille de Chasse .. La Saint Hubert .. Jullien
MADRIGAL, "Down in a Flow'ry Vale," (1541) CONSTANTIUS FESTA.

Grand Selectiou from

DER FREYSCHUTZ !

Overture.
Chorus, 'Victoria, all honour and glory !"
March.
Solo, 'Mine the prize and mine the glory,' on the Bassoon, by Mons. BAUMANN,
With Laughing Chorus.
Waltz.
Solo, 'Drinking Song,' Orphicleide, M. Prospere.
Bridesmaid's Chorus, 'We weave with flowers.'
Hunting Chorus, 'We roam through the forest.'
Grand Finale, 'See the morn arising in darkness.'
Romance from the Opera, GUIDO ET GINEVRA,
Solo, Cornet a Pistons, Herr KOENIG.
La Tarantella .. .. Jullien

PART II.

Third Time in this Country, The

Grand Marche Funebre And REQUIEM.

As lately performed in Paris at the Funeral Procession of the Emperor Napoleon.
The Music by Mozart, Halevy, Auber, Jullien, &c.
Arranged in Five Parts by JULLIEN.

Printed and Published, every Morning, by E. & J. Thomas, Exeter Street, Strand.—All Letters to be post paid.—Printing in General.